

REMARKS

In addition to the arguments presented in the after-final amendment, Applicant's provide the following comments. The claimed invention requires the usage of a soft input for block codes to generate soft output values, where the soft output values are a result of an optimization of the target function. The generation of the soft values is done within the block decoder. In this regard, the Examiner has previously comments that the iterative decoding of Barbulescu could also be applied to block codes, e.g. Reed-Solomon Codes. However, when reading the cited paragraph on page 7 of Barbulescu, in accordance with chapter 7 in which the iterative decoding of concatenated codes is discussed in detail, it is disclosed that the Reed-Solomon Code is used only as an outer code of the concatenated code, whereas the inner code is a convolutional code. Specifically, in Chapter 7.2 on page 127, a MAP is disclosed in which it is used as a decoder for the convolutional code (i.e. the inner code), and that reliability information about an estimated symbol is passed to the outer decoder. This is clearly different from the claimed invention in which soft values are generated within the block decoder and not received from a previous decoding stage. In view of the foregoing, all claims are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122017000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: October 6, 2004

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